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EXAMINER

BURCH, MELODY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/603,551	Applicant(s) CHECK ET AL. <i>CS</i>	
	Examiner Melody M. Burch	Art Unit 3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25, 27, 32 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 26, 28-31, 33-36 and 38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 June 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/25/03, 3/15/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: element 74 mentioned in line 4 of pg. 15 and element 78 mentioned in line 9 of pg. 18. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "A" has been used to designate both a knee in figure 2 and a perforated line in figure 8. Also see A, B, C in figure 8 compared to A, B, C in figures 3 and 4. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as

per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: element number "166" in figure 6, "DRP" in box 164 of figure 6 (Examiner notes that in line 5 of pg. 22 the flag is describes as "RDP active"), "RPCM ODE" and "MOD CMD" in box 151 in figure 6, "DRP" in box 164, and "RDP MODE" and "MOD CMD" in box 160 in figure 6. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to because 1.) In line 11 of pg. 15 the specification describes the RPC apparatus 66 as including a speed sensor 80 but the speed sensor 80 is not shown within the perforated box outlining the apparatus 66; 2.) Boxes 154 and

Art Unit: 3683

162 include the phrase "entry point", but fail to identify which entry point Applicant intends to refer to; 3.) Figure 6 fails to show commands given to the HCU 68 from block 160 as described in lines 26-27 of pg. 21. As shown in figure 6 there is no connection between block 160 and block 116. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the situation in which if the vehicle is operating at a GVW rather than an LVW loading condition, as shown at decision diamond 128, the RDP term is then modified as described in the specification in lines 21-23 on pg. 18. Instead, figure 7 shows a situation in which if the vehicle is operating at LVW loading conditions, the RDP term is

Art Unit: 3683

modified. A similar problem exists with the description in line 7 of pg. 20. Clarification is required. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

6. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore,

- the limitation of providing RDP when a predetermined deceleration rate is exceeded during the braking event with the vehicle operating at LVW, and inhibiting RDP when the vehicle is operating at GVW as first claimed in claim 2 (element 128 in

figure 7 only suggests that the RDP term is unmodified when the vehicle is operating at GVW;

- the limitation of the RPC apparatus determining whether the vehicle is operating in an LVW or GVW condition from a predetermined relationship of rear wheel acceleration to rear brake pressure as claimed in claims 11 and 20 (according to figures 126 and 128 of figure 7 the determination takes place according to vehicle acceleration and rear wheel acceleration);

- the limitation of terminating control of the rear brake circuit by the RPC apparatus when a predetermined value of rear brake pressure rate is sensed by the rear brake pressure sensor as claimed in claim 13 (figure 7 simply shows brake pressure rate as an output from block 114);

- the limitation wherein the RDP operation is inhibited if the RBP rate is less than a predetermined minimum value as claimed in claims 26 and 38;

- the limitation wherein the RDP operation is inhibited if the function of rear brake pressure and vehicle acceleration indicate that the vehicle is operating at GVW as claimed in claim 31 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure

Art Unit: 3683

is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

7. In addition to Replacement Sheets containing the corrected drawing figure(s), applicant is required to submit a marked-up copy of each Replacement Sheet including annotations indicating the changes made to the previous version. The marked-up copy must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing and marked-up copy will result in the abandonment of the application.

Specification

8. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: 1.) in lines 18-19 of pg. 4 the phrase "differential pressure 24 switch" should be changed to --differential pressure switch 24--; 2.) in line 24 of pg. 9 it is unclear to the Examiner what ".55g", for example, represents (other "g" amounts are found throughout the

Art Unit: 3683

specificatio); 3.) the application number should be inserted in line 6 of pg. 11; 4.) the specification improperly lists element "84" as a wheel speed sensor in line 9 of pg. 18.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

9. Claims 1-21, 27-31, and 34-36 are objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "and one and rear wheel" first claimed in line 3 of claim 1 but also found in claims 3, 5, and 14 should be reworded; in line 2 from the bottom of claim 3 and in some of the other claims "brake circuit" should be changed to --brake hydraulic circuit-- to maintain consistency; the term "ECU" in line 3 from the bottom of claim 9 should include an unabbreviated version in the claim; a period should be placed at the end of claims 9 and 18; parentheses should be included around the phrase "VS Est" in line 2 of claim 34; the phrase "a function a road" in line 2 of claim 12 should be reworded for clarity; the phrase "a function on rear" in line 3 of claim 27 should be reworded for clarity. Appropriate correction is required. The remaining claims are indefinite due to their dependency from one of claims 1, 3, 5, 14, 27, and 34.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

10. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

11. Claims 6-9, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Re: claim 6. The phrase "the signal" lacks proper antecedent basis.

Re: claims 7 and 16. The phrase "the fluid receiving element" in the last two lines of the claim lacks proper antecedent basis.

Re: claim 18. The phrase "an ECU" in line 3 from the bottom is indefinite. It is unclear to the Examiner whether the ECU is intended to be the same or different from the RPC controller earlier claimed since the ECU is listed as a separate entity but performs functions similar to the RPC controller.

Re: claims 13 and 22. The phrase "available volume to a rear brake pressure rate" first claimed in line 3 of claim 13 is indefinite. The recitation reads as if "a rear brake pressure rate" is an object. However, as best understood, the brake pressure rate is simply a derivative of the brake pressure. The remaining claims are indefinite due to their dependency from one of claims 6 and 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claims 1-4, 23, 25, 32, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 3862781 to King et al.

Re: claims 1, 3. King et al. show in figure 1 a pump-less anti-lock brake apparatus for controlling the rotational speeds, during a braking cycle, of only the rear brakes of a vehicle having at least one front and one rear wheel and front 12, 14

and rear 16,18 brakes acting on the front and rear wheels respectively in response to a front and a rear brake pressure respectively, the apparatus comprising: a rear brake hydraulic circuit including a master cylinder 20 for supplying a volume of pressurized brake fluid to the rear brakes 16,18 during the braking cycle, a fluid storage element (the cylinder of one of the brakes or in another interpretation the brake booster disclosed in col. 2 line 26), and a rear brake pressure control apparatus 30,32,42,44,46,48 for controlling the rear brake circuit as a function of whether the vehicle is operating lightly loaded at a light vehicle weight or heavily loaded at a gross vehicle weight as disclosed in col. 1 lines 42-59.

Re: claims 2, 4, 23, 32. King et al. show in figure 1 the limitation wherein the rear brake pressure control apparatus provides rear dynamic proportioning (particularly, proportioning through valve 30 as disclosed in col. 3 lines 49-51) when a predetermined deceleration rate is exceeded during the braking event with the vehicle operating at LVW as disclosed in col. 3 lines 35-40, and inhibits RDP (particularly, proportioning through valve 30) when the vehicle is operating at GVW as disclosed in col. 4 lines 10-11.

Re: claims 25 and 37. King et al. disclose a method comprising controlling the rear brake circuit as a function of a volume available in the fluid storage device (particularly, in the interpretation in which the fluid storage device is a cylinder of one of the brakes) for receiving fluid supplied by the master cylinder during the braking cycle.

14. Claims 5-9 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prior art figure 1 of the instant application.

Re: claims 5, 14. Prior art figure 1 shows a pump-less anti-lock brake apparatus for controlling the rotational speeds, during a braking cycle, of only the rear brakes of a vehicle having at least one front and one rear wheel and front RF and rear brakes RR acting on the front and rear wheels respectively in response to a front and a rear brake pressure respectively, the apparatus comprising: a rear brake hydraulic circuit including a master cylinder 12 for supplying a volume of pressurized brake fluid to the rear brakes RR,LR during the braking cycle, a fluid storage element 22, and a rear brake pressure control apparatus 34,24,36,38,18,20,26 for controlling the rear brake circuit as a function of the rotational speed of at least one rear wheel via element 26 and the rear brake pressure via element 24.

Re: claims 6, 8, 15, and 17. Prior art figure 1 shows the RPC apparatus further including a rear brake pressure sensor 24 for sensing rear brake pressure at the rear brake and sending the signal to the rpc apparatus, and a speed sensor 26 operatively connected for sensing a speed of the at least one rear wheel and sending a rear wheel speed signal to the rpc apparatus. Examiner notes that the rear brake pressure is sensed in order to obtain a difference in pressure between the rear brake pressure and the pressure in the brake circuit 16.

Re: claims 7, 16. Prior art figure 1 shows the rpc apparatus including a normally open apply valve 18 having an inlet connected to the master cylinder 12 for receiving pressurized fluid therefrom and an outlet connected to the rear brakes, and a normally closed release valve 20 having an inlet connected to the rear brakes for receiving fluid therefrom and an outlet connected to the fluid receiving element 22.

Re: claims 9, 18. Prior art figure 1 shows the rpc apparatus including a hydraulic control unit 18,20,36,38 operatively connecting the master cylinder to the rear brakes and the fluid storage element for controlling fluid pressure applied to the rear brakes during the braking cycle and fluid flow to the fluid storage element, and an ECU 34 operatively connected to the HCU, the rear brake pressure sensor, and the rear wheel speed sensor, for controlling the HCU as a function of the rear brake pressure and the rotational speed of the at least one rear wheel.

15. Claims 5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 6241326 to Ferguson et al.

Re: claims 5 and 14. Ferguson et al. show in figure 4 a pump-less anti-lock brake apparatus for controlling the rotational speeds, during a braking cycle, of only the rear brakes of a vehicle having at least one front and one rear wheel and front 17a,b and rear brakes 20a,b acting on the front and rear wheels respectively in response to a front and a rear brake pressure respectively, the apparatus comprising: a rear brake hydraulic circuit including a master cylinder 14 for supplying a volume of pressurized brake fluid to the rear brakes 20a,b during the braking cycle, a fluid storage element 38, and a rear brake pressure control apparatus 31,40,41, pressure differential switch for controlling the rear brake circuit as a function of the rotational speed of at least one rear wheel via element 41 and the rear brake pressure via the pressure differential switch.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 10, 11, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior art figure 1 in view of King et al.

Re: claims 10 and 19. Prior art figure 1 describes the invention substantially as set forth above, but does not include the limitation of the rpc apparatus further determining whether the vehicle is operating in a LVW condition or GVW condition and controls the rear brake circuit as a function of whether the vehicle is operating in the LVW or GVW conditions.

King et al. teach the use of a an rpc apparatus determining whether a vehicle is operating in a LVW condition or GVW condition and controls a rear brake circuit as a function of whether the vehicle is operating in the LVW or GVW conditions as taught in col. 1 lines 42-59.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the apparatus of prior art figure 1 to have included a means of determining whether the vehicle is operating in a LVW condition or GVW condition and controlling the rear brake circuit as a function of whether the vehicle is operating in the LVW or GVW conditions, as taught by King et al., in order to provide a

means of adjusting the braking pressure output to more efficiently accommodate varying vehicle loads.

Re: claims 11 and 20. Prior art figure 1, as modified, teach in figure 1 of King et al. the limitation wherein the rpc apparatus determines whether the vehicle is operating in an LVW or GVW condition from a predetermined relationship of rear wheel acceleration (or negative acceleration by way of the deceleration switch 48) to rear brake pressure (by way of the pressure switch 46).

18. Claims 10-12, 19-21, 23-25, 27, 32, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferguson et al. in view of King et al.

Re: claims 10, 19, 23-25, 32, and 37. Ferguson et al. describe the invention substantially as set forth above, but does not include the limitation of the rpc apparatus further determining whether the vehicle is operating in a LVW condition or GVW condition and controls the rear brake circuit as a function of whether the vehicle is operating in the LVW or GVW conditions.

King et al. teach the use of a an rpc apparatus determining whether a vehicle is operating in a LVW condition or GVW condition and controls a rear brake circuit as a function of whether the vehicle is operating in the LVW or GVW conditions as taught in col. 1 lines 42-59.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the apparatus of Ferguson et al. to have included a means of determining whether the vehicle is operating in a LVW condition or GVW condition and controlling the rear brake circuit as a function of whether the vehicle is

operating in the LVW or GVW conditions, as taught by King et al., in order to provide a means of adjusting the braking pressure output to more efficiently accommodate varying vehicle loads.

Re: claims 11 and 20. Ferguson et al., as modified, teach in figure 1 of King et al. the limitation wherein the rpc apparatus determines whether the vehicle is operating in an LVW or GVW condition from a predetermined relationship of rear wheel acceleration (or negative acceleration by way of the deceleration switch 48) to rear brake pressure (by way of the pressure switch 46).

Re: claims 12 and 21. Ferguson et al., as modified, teach in figure 10 of Ferguson et al. in block 120 the limitation wherein the rpc apparatus further controls the rear brakes as a function a road surface roughness determined from the rear wheel speed (by way of wheel slip calculations).

Re: claim 27. Ferguson et al., as modified, teach in figure the method of monitoring rear wheel speed via speed sensor 41 shown in figure 4 of Ferguson et al., determining a vehicle speed as a function on rear wheel speed (as shown in figure 6 block 72 vehicle deceleration is shown and in block 133 in figure 12 vehicle deceleration is integrated to obtain vehicle speed), and determining an RDP entry point as a function of the vehicle speed as shown in block 86 in figure 6 of Ferguson et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

19. Claims 26, 28-31, 33-36, and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 3683

20. Claims 13 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

21. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent 5480221 to Morita et al. teaches the use of a rear wheel braking force control method, US Patent 4445725 to Sivulka, JP-11165624, and EP-0246790 teach the use of load dependent brake control systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melody M. Burch whose telephone number is 703-306-4618. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30 AM-4:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Lavinder can be reached on 703-308-3421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/603,551

Page 17

Art Unit: 3683

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November 3, 2004

Melody M. Buell

11/3/04